



News Release

**Office of the Louisiana State Fire Marshal
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VISIT OUR WEBSITE: "www.dps.state.la.us/sfm/"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: September 7, 2005

To: All Owner/ Operators of Boilers in Orleans, Jefferson, Plaquemines and St Bernard Parishes

**From: William R. Owens
Office of State Fire Marshal**

Subject: Flooded boilers and water heaters in these affected areas

The recent flooding from Hurricane Katrina has caused water damage to many existing boilers and water heaters in Southeast Louisiana. The possible damage to a flooded boiler or water heater can be extensive and may present numerous safety hazards. This damage to boilers and water heaters may not be readily visible or immediately detectible; however over a period of time flooded water heaters and boilers will create dangerous conditions which could result in property damage, bodily harm or death.

With public safety in mind, the Office of State Fire Marshal is suspending all boiler operating permits. L.A.R.S. 23:537 (B) states that "the assistant secretary or his representative may at any time suspend an inspection certificate when, in his opinion, the boiler for which it was issued cannot continue to be operated without menace to the public safety, or when the boiler does not comply with the rules issued hereunder. The suspension of an inspection certificate shall continue in effect until the boiler has been made to conform to the rules and regulations of the assistant secretary governing the use of boilers, and until the inspection certificate has been reinstated." The permits will be reactivated after an inspection and repairs, if necessary, are completed. This suspension does not prohibit an owner/operator from operating a boiler or water heater that has been deemed acceptable for use by an inspection professional. This suspension means that the Office of State Fire Marshal has not approved the boiler or water heater for operation in the state. The inspection certificate may be reactivated upon receipt of a valid inspection report.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact my office at 800.256.5452.